

## Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 211037Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9597

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0707

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SU, US

SUBJ: NIMEIRI US VISIT: HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL IN BAHAS BREAST

1. TWO AMERICAN JOURNALISTS WHO INTERVIEWED NIMEIRI MARCH 18 SOMEWHAT FOOLISHLY ASKED HIM IF HE WOULD LIKE VISIT US. NIMEIRI REPLIED THAT HE WOULD IF CIRCUMSTANCES PERMITTED AND MADE VAGUE REFERENCE TO TRIP LATER THIS YEAR.

2. PERHAPS STIMULATED BY FOREGOING, NIMEIRI'S EBULLIENT, ELFIN MINSTATE FOR SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS, DR. BAHAS AL-DIN AL-IDRIS, ASKED ME PRIVATELY MARCH 21 WHAT I THOUGHT "PERSONALLY" ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR VISIT. I REPLIED THAT SUCH SEP GENERALLY CAME AT THE END, NOT THE BEGINNING, OF A PROCESS OF NORMALIZING RELATIONSHIPS. DR. BAHAS AGREED AND SAID HE HOPED PROCESS COULD GET STARTED. GOS NOW WORKING ON A NUMBER TRIANGULAR DEVELOPMENT ARRANGEMENTS INVOLVING UK, FRANCE, ITALY AND GERMANY, AND HE HOPED SOME SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT WITH US COULD BE WORKED OUT. HE SAID HE WANTED TO SEE ME SOON TO DISCUSS HIS IDEAS IN DETAIL. I SAID I WAS AT HIS DISPOSAL.

3. COMMENT. WHILE WE DO NOT YET HAVE CONFIRMED INFO RE OUTCOME KUWAITI STATE VISIT, ONE SOURCE REPORTS THAT GOK HAS AGREED TO 40 MILLION KUWAITI DINAR (SOME \$115 MILLION) LONG-TERM INTEREST-FREE LOAN TO SUDAN FOR WIDE RANGE OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. DR. BAHAS IS EFFULGENT OPTIMIST BUT HE DOES CLOSELY MIRROR NIMEIRI'S VIEWS. HIS  
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REMARKS THUS SUGGEST THAT, EITHER FROM GOK OR SOME OTHER

OIL-RICH ARAB SOURCE, GOS EXPECTS GENERATE SUB-  
STANTIAL CAPITAL WHICH WOULD FUEL TRIANGULAR COOPERATION  
WITH US. OUR CURRENT STAND-OFFISH POLICY  
WOULD NOT APPEAR PERMIT SUCH COOPERATION ON PART USG. BUT  
IT IS FOR CONSIDERATION HOW LONG SUCH HARD-NOSED ATTITUDE  
CAN BE CONTINUED WITHOUT CUTTING IT OFF TO SPITE OUR FACE.  
BREWER

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